

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action mailed May 25, 2007, claims 1-6 were rejected. In response, Applicant hereby requests reconsideration of the application in view of the amended claims, the new claims, and the below-provided remarks. No claims are canceled.

For reference, claim 1 is amended, and claims 7-17 are added. In particular, claim 1 is amended to clarify the plurality of switching networks. This amendment is supported by the specification, for example, at page 5, line 27, through page 6, line 4. New claims 7-11 are directed to subject matter described in the specification, for example, at page 32, lines 1-13. New claim 12 is directed to subject matter described in the specification, for example, at page 8, lines 9-12. New claim 13 is directed to subject matter described in the specification, for example, in original claim 1 and at page 5, line 27, through page 6, line 4. New claims 14-17 are directed to subject matter described in the specification, for example, at page 2, lines 4-11, and at page 32, lines 1-13.

Response to Claim Rejections

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Dove et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,798,784, hereinafter Dove). Additionally, claims 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dove in view of Betts et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 7,197,031, hereinafter Betts). However, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are patentable over Dove and Betts for the reasons provided below.

Independent Claim 1

Claim 1 recites:

a switching core comprising a plurality of switching networks, the plurality of switching networks comprising:

a north switching network coupled to a first line which traverses only the north switching network in a first direction; and
a south switching network coupled to a second line which traverses only the south switching network in a second direction
opposite the first direction;

(emphasis added).

In contrast, Dove does not disclose north and south switching networks, as recited in the claim. Although the Office Action asserts that Dove purportedly discloses a plurality of switch units 144 and 146, the description of the switch units 144 and 146 does not disclose north and south switching networks, as recited in the claim. In particular, the switch units 144 and 146 of the switch 133 are not described as being coupled to corresponding lines which traverse only one switch unit or only the other switch unit. Furthermore, Dove does not describe the switch units 144 and 146 as being coupled to lines which traverse the switch units in opposite directions. Therefore, Dove does not disclose all of the limitations of the claim because Dove does not disclose north and south switching networks, as recited in the claim. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over Dove because Dove does not disclose all of the limitations of the claim.

Additionally, the combination of Dove and Betts also fails to teach all of the limitations of the claim because Betts does not teach or suggest north and south switching networks, as recited in the claim. Betts merely describes multiple shelves 16 which are designed to route traffic between input ports 4 and output ports 8. Betts, col. 5, lines 46-49. Figure 1 of Betts shows that a single input port 4a sends inbound traffic to all of the shelves 16 of the switch core 12. Thus, Betts does not describe the shelves 16 of the switch core 12 as being coupled to lines which traverse only one or another of the shelves 16. Furthermore, Figure 1 of Betts also indicates that the shelves 16 of the switch core 12 all process input traffic in the same direction. Thus, Betts does not describe the shelves 16 of the switch core 12 as being coupled to lines which traverse the shelves in opposite directions. Therefore, the combination of Dove and Betts does not teach all of the limitations of the claim because Betts does not teach or suggest north and south switching networks, as recited in the claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is also patentable over the combination of Dove and Betts because the combination of Dove and Betts does not teach all of the limitations of the claim.

Independent Claim 7

Claim 7 recites providing “a first switching core comprising a first plurality of switching networks” and “a second switching core comprising a second plurality of

switching networks.” In contrast, Dove and Betts, either alone or in combination, do not describe first and second switching cores, each with a plurality of switching networks, as recited in the claim. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 7 is patentable over Dove and Betts.

Independent Claim 13

Applicant respectfully asserts independent claim 13 is patentable over Dove and Betts at least for similar reasons to those stated above in regard to the rejection of independent claim 1. In particular, claim 13 recites “a north switching network coupled to a first line which traverses only the north switching network in a first direction” and “a south switching network coupled to a second line which traverses only the south switching network in a second direction opposite the first direction.”

Here, although the language of claim 13 differs from the language of claim 1 and the scope of claim 13 should be interpreted independently of claim 1, Applicant respectfully asserts that the remarks provided above in regard to the rejection of claim 1 also apply to the rejection of claim 13. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts claim 13 is patentable over Dove and Betts, either alone or in combination, because Dove and Betts do not describe north and south switching networks, as recited in the claim.

Dependent Claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-17

Claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-17 are dependent on claims 1, 7, and 13. Applicant respectfully asserts claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-17 are allowable based on allowable base claims. Additionally, each of claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-17 may be allowable for further reasons.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the amendments and remarks made herein. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any over payment to Deposit Account **50-3444** pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.25. Additionally, please charge any fees to Deposit Account **50-3444** under 37 C.F.R. 1.16, 1.17, 1.19, 1.20 and 1.21.

Respectfully submitted,

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